

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 125125 TOSEC 020108

62

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66612

DRAFTED BY: S/S:JPMOFFAT

APPROVED BY: S/S:JPMOFFAT

----- 112336

O 292048Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 125125 TOSEC 020108

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 6825 ACTION SECSTATE 29 MAY 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 6825

NODIS

PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: COMMENT BY "U.S. OFFICIAL" RE LEBANON

1. WE HAVE NO REPEAT NO TEXT OF WHAT WAS ALLEGEDLY SAID
BY A "U.S. OFFICIAL" RE LEBANON MAY 27 IN CONJUNCTION
SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL PARIS.

2. REUTERS CARRIED FOLLOWING BY RALPH HARRIS QUOTE
CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION IN LEBANON WAS VOICED BY
THE OFFICIAL AS SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER ARRIVED
HERE TO ATTEND ECONOMIC AND ENERGY CONFERENCE AND TO
PREPARE FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S EUROPEAN TOUR STARTING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 125125 TOSEC 020108

ON WEDNESDAY. THE OFFICIAL SAID CONDITIONS IN LEBANON

WERE BEGINNING TO RESEMBLE THOSE IN JORDAN IN 1970, WHEN KING HUSSEIN'S ARMY PUT DOWN A MILITARY CHALLENGE FOR PALESTINE GUERRILLAS WITH GREAT LOSS OF LIFE. SYRIA THEN SENT TANKS RACING TOWARDS ITS BORDER WITH JORDAN TO SUPPORT THE GUERRILLAS BUT PULLED THEM BACK AT THE LAST MOMENT WHEN ISRAEL, BACKED BY THE UNITED STATES, PREPARED TO REACT WITH FORCE. SOME SOURCES THOUGHT LEBANON WAS FACING ITS MOST SERIOUS CRISIS SINCE 1958 WHEN PRESIDENT EISENHOWER SENT U.S. MARINES THERE TO HELP THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MEET WHAT WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A COMMUNIST THREAT. THE SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID THE SITUATION IN LEBANON DID NOT LOOK AS THOUGH IT WAS GETTING OUT OF CONTROL AT THE MOMENT. BUT HE DREW A PARALLEL WITH THE WAY EUROPE SLID INTO THE FIRST WORLD WAR WITHOUT ANYONE REALLY KNOWING WHAT WAS HAPPENING. A SITUATION HAD TO BE AVOIDED IN WHICH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD LOSE CONTROL, ISRAEL MOVED IN TO PROTECT HIMSELF AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS AND SYRIA WENT TO THE AID OF LEBANON. ALL IT WOULD TAKE TO START A NEW CONFLICT WAS FOR SYRIA TO SEND A SINGLE BRIGADE INTO LEBANON, THE OFFICIAL SAID. END QUOTE. SIMILAR ARTICLES CARRIED BY AFP AND AMERICAN SERVICES. THANKS TO CURRENT LEBANESE CRISIS FOREGOING DID NOT RECEIVE MUCH PLAY IN LEBANESE PRESS.

3. HOWEVER, ACTING MIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS LICIEH DAHDAH TELEPHONED ME THIS MORNING TO INQUIRE PRECISELY WHAT "SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID" UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN PARIS ABOUT LEBANON. I POINTED OUT PRESS STORIES REFERRED TO A "U.S. OFFICIAL" AND DAHDAH MERELY LAUGHED, SAYING EVERYONE ASSUMED IT WAS THE SECRETARY. DAHDAH DESCRIBED STATEMENT AS "MOST UNFORTUNATE" AND "PERPLEXING". HE ASKED RE BACKGROUND OF STATEMENT. TOLD HIM I WOULD INQUIRE.

4. SUNNI LEADER SAEB SALAAM ALSO INQUIRED SOMEWHAT AGITATEDLY ABOUT ACTUAL TEXT OF WHAT WAS SAID, FOR PERSONS "AROUND HIM" ARE INTERPRETING STATEMENT TO BE THREAT OF U.S. INTERVENTION IN THE LEBANON IF SYRIA WERE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 125125 TOSEC 020108

TO INTERVENE.

5. WE WERE, OF COURSE, SOMEWHAT CONCERNED BY FOREGOING ARTICLE BECAUSE OF ITS USE OF EXAMPLES IN WHICH IN ONE CASE THERE WAS DIRECT INTERVENTION BY US (1958) AND IN THE OTHER US AS INDIRECTLY INVOLVED BY BACKING ISRAEL'S PREPARATIONS FOR INTERVENTION. MOREOVER, AS WE HAVE TRIED TO POINT OUT REPEATEDLY, ALTHOUGH THERE IS

SIMILARITY IN SENSE OF FEDAYEEN/LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFLICTING SITUATION IN LEBANON IS DIFFERENT IN MANY IMPORTANT RESPECTS THAN THAT WHICH EXISTED IN JORDAN IN 1970. WE ALSO NOTE IMPLICATION THAT SYRIAN UP TO MISCHIEF IN THE LEBANON. FOR THOSE FOLLOWING LEBANESE MATTERS CLOSELY, IT IS APPARENT THAT THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT THE CASE AND THAT SYRIAN ACTIONS HERE, I.E. KHADDAM'S VISIT, ETC., WERE HELPFUL IN COOLING SITUATION.

6. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA SENT HIS CLOSEST ASSOCIATE AROUND TO SEE ME THIS MORNING ON OTHER MATTERS. TAQLA INTERPRETS STATEMENT AS EFFORT TO BE HELPFUL.

7. PERSONALLY I AM NOT REPEAT NOT TOO MUCH CONCERNED RE LUCIEN DAHDAH'S INQUIRY, FOR HE WILL PROBABLY BE OUT OF OFFICE IN NEXT 47-72 HOURS. HE IS, HOWEVER, CLOSE TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE AND I ASSUME INQUIRY WAS INITIATED BY PRESIDENT. SAEB SALAAM'S INTEREST, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS MORE IMPORTANT, FOR HE IS CLOSELY ALLIED WITH PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE KARAME AND IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED. THEREFORE REQUEST ASAP INDICATION OF WHAT ACTUALLY WAS SAID, WHAT WAS RATIONALIZATION BEHIND STATEMENT AND WHAT WE SHOULD TELL THE LEBANESE. GODLEY

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL STABILITY, CAT-A, CIVIL DISORDERS, ALLEGATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE125125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S:JPMOFFAT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975058/aaaaagyd.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENT BY "U.S. OFFICIAL" RE LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006